

HARRIET S. WYMAN.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 559.]

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APRIL 2, 1860.

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Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Harriet S. Wyman, report:*

That the petitioner applies for relief as the widow of Captain Thomas W. Wyman, alleging that he died of disease contracted while he was in the line of his duty in the service of the United States.

As to the primary facts of service, rank of the deceased, and his intermarriage with the petitioner, there is no room for question. It appears that he entered the navy in the year 1810, and continued in that branch of the public service until his death, on the 24th February, 1854, at Florence, Italy, whither he had gone for his health.

The only question upon which any doubt has been suggested is, whether Captain Wyman died of a disease contracted "in the line of his duty;" and we are entirely satisfied that he did so upon any other than a much too limited and rigorous construction of this statutory expression. The petitioner adduces the evidence of several surgeons in the navy who were acquainted with Captain Wyman at different periods of his service, and upon the testimony of these, based in part upon a *post mortem* examination, and the declarations of the deceased on his death-bed, we are of opinion that the disease of which he died was, in its ultimate form, a disease of the heart, (hypertrophy of the heart,) and that it was consequent on a series of rheumatic attacks with which the deceased was first visited after a period of at least three years' service on the East India station, and which were greatly aggravated by his subsequent and sudden transfer from that tropical region to our northernmost navy yards, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine.

Surgeon Lockwood says, that during Captain Wyman's first cruise on the East India station, from 1837 to 1840, he "was free from rheumatic or cardiac disease, but while there he suffered severely from the climate in derangement of the functions of the liver and bowels, which probably predisposed his system to other diseases."

